GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1622
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
CHILDREN LANGUISHING IN PAK JAILS
AKHILESH SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian children languishing in jails in Pakistan alongwith the date from which they have been jailed and also the crime for which they have been jailed; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get them released.

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) As per available information, following seven Indian children have been detained in Pakistani jails:

S.No.	Name	Age	Date since When jailed	Alleged Offence
1.	Bhavyesh Kanji	16	23.10.1999	Illegal fishing in Pakistani waters
2.	Devshi Kara	17	18.11.1999	-do-
3.	Kanji Pancha	15	24.11.1999	-do-
4.	Dhiru Bachu	17	24.11.1999	-do-
5.	Sanjay Varjang	16	30.01.2000	-do-
6.	Ranjit Kumar	14	Dec. 1999	Espionage
7	Awais Abbas Naqvi	14	April 2000	Illegal stay

(b) The issue of early release and repatriation of Indian children under detention in Pakistani jails has been taken up repeatedly with the Government of Pakistan. On February 16, 2001, Government of Pakistan conveyed its decision to release 84 Indian fishermen, including the four children whose names appear at Sl.Nos.1-4 above. Government are in the process of finalising arrangements in consultation with the Government of Pakistan for their early repatriation. The Government of Pakistan has also offered consular access in respect of 28 other fishermen prisoners, including Sanjay Varjang, whose name appears at Sl.No.5 above. The date for consular access has yet to be conveyed by the Government of Pakistan. Government will continue their efforts for the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners, especially of children, in Pakistani custody.